Conference on solar energy

1479. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has held a conference of all the nodal agencies of State Governments on the best way to increase the use of solar energy for generating alternate forms of energy;

(b) if so, when this conference was held;

(c) whether it is a fact that adequate funding is not being given to State Governments to develop solar energy;

(d) whether there is any proposal to expand the assistance to the State Governments to encourage solar energy development; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. An annual conference with the state nodal agencies and Departments involved in the implementation of various non-conventional energy programmes, including the solar energy programmes, was held on 7-8th May, 2002 in New Delhi. The implementation strategy for renewable energy programmes during the Tenth plan was discussed in the conference.

(c) The Government provides financial assistance to state agencies to support the installation of solar photovoltaic systems such as lighting systems, pumps and power plants. Assistance is also provided for promotional activities relating to solar cookers, solar water heaters and solar buildings. The quantum of assistance to each state is worked out on the basis of targets assigned to the states and the norms of the relevant schemes. A substantial part of this assistance is released in advance.

(d) and (e) The Ministry would like to expand the use of solar energy systems and power plants significantly in the country considering their vast potential. The targets for the Tenth Five Year Plan are given below:

(i)	Solar Lanterns	3,00,000
(ii)	Solar Home Systems	2,50,000

(iii)	Villages to be electrified through solar energy	4,000
(iv)	Solar Pumps	8,000
(v)	Solar Generators	7,000
(vi)	Power Plants & other systems	3.6 MWp
(vii)	Grid connected Power Plants	5.0 MWp
(viii)	Solar Water Heaters	5,00,000 Sq.M.
(ix)	Solar Cookers	2,10,000
(x)	Combined cycle Solar Thermal Power at Mathania, Rajasthan	140MW

Assistance commensurate with the targets will be provided to the programme implementing agencies in various states, taking into account their performance and the plan outlays each year.

Establishment of wind farms

1480. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is encouraging the establishment of wind farms;

(b) how many such wind farms have been set up with Government's assistance in the last three years;

(c) the power being generated at such wind farms;

(d) whether there is any proposal to expand the number of wind farms in the country; and

(e) if so, the new sites selected for such wind farms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes,